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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/578,785

05/09/2006

Toshiharu Aikawa

40283

8693

52054 7590 03/03/2009

PEARNE & GORDON LLP
1801 EAST 9TH STREET
SUITE 1200
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108

EXAMINER

SOHN, SEUNG C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2878

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/03/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patdocket@pearne.com
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DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed on May 9, 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Drawings

3. Figures 7 and 8 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-2, 4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

Regarding claim 1, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 a substrate (105) on which light emitting elements (107) are mounted; a housing which has a front surface (121) having different distances from said substrate; light-emitting-element light guide components (131, 133) which are arranged at positions corresponding to the light emitting elements, and each of which includes a portion to-be-held in a sectional shape becoming smaller toward said substrate; and a holding member which has holding holes adapted to fit the portions to-be-held therein, shapes of the holding holes being set so as to differ in accordance with the arrangements of said light- emitting-element light guide components in a light guide direction (Paragraph 6).

Regarding claim 2, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 that each of said portions to-be-held includes a plurality of stages, and that each of said holding holes (123, 125) has a size corresponding to any of the plurality of stages.

Regarding claim 4, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 that each of said portions to-be- held includes a taper portion, and that each of said holding holes (123, 125) has a shape in

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which it is held in touch with the taper portion when the light-emitting- element light guide component lies at a predetermined position.

Regarding claim 6, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 that light emission quantities of the light emitting elements (107) are set so as to differ in accordance with the arrangements of said light- emitting-element light guide components in the light guide direction.

Regarding claim 7, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 that the arrangements of the light emitting elements in the light guide direction are set so as to differ in accordance with the arrangements of said light-emitting-element light guide components (127, 129) in the light guide direction.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 3 and 5 are allowable because the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious, either singly or in combination, comprising, in addition to the other recited features of the claim, “each of said light-emitting- element light guide components includes a base portion, a first stage portion and a second stage portion whose sectional shapes become smaller toward said substrate, that the first stage portion and the second stage portion are provided in said portion to- be-held, that said holding

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member has a first holding hole which has a sectional dimension smaller than that of the base portion and larger than that of said first stage portion, and a second holding hole which has a sectional dimension smaller than that of said first stage portion and larger than that of said second stage portion, and that said first stage portion fits into the first holding hole, while said second stage portion fits into the second holding hole.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SEUNG C. SOHN whose telephone number is (571)272-4123. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:30 AM -6 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, GEORGIA Y. EPPS can be reached on 571-272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SEUNG C SOHN/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2878